

Remarks

It is respectfully requested that claims 1 - 19 be reconsidered for allowance in view of this Amendment and these Remarks.

Page 10 and the "Assignment" thereon is cancelled.

The Specification has been amended in paragraph [013] to recite "From Figs. 3, 4 and 5 it is seen that panel 10 forms a plate 11 which surrounds and extends away from the opening 12. Slot side wall 24 forms an inner edge of a portion of plate 11. A portion of plate 11 adjacent to side wall 24 extends only outwardly away from the slots 16 - 20 and extends generally perpendicularly to a surface of side wall 24." No new matter is introduced by this amendment because this structure is clearly shown in original Figs. 3, 4 and 5.

The Specification has also been amended in paragraph [019] to recite " As best seen in Fig. 2, each latch 34, 36, 38, when fully inserted in the slots 16, 18 and 20, is pivotally engagable with the slot side walls 22, 24 and is pivotal with respect to the side walls 22, 24. No new matter is introduced by this amendment because this is clearly shown by original Fig. 2.

Claims 7 and 8 are amended to correct an informality and now recite "latch device".

Claims 1 - 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Neely ('415) in view of van Buren ('962). The Examiner suggests that elements 166 of Neeley could be replaced with angled tabs 46 of Van Buren. It is believed that this would not form a tighter seal or reduce the possibility of disengagement during vibration as suggested by the Examiner since the latch of Neely includes a locking surface 86 which provides a positive lock, whereas tabs 46 have a different tilt which would not provide a positive lock.

Nevertheless, claims 1 and 10 have been amended to more accurately define the present invention and distinguish over the combination suggested by the Examiner. Both amended claims 1 and 10 now recite that the latch device, when fully inserted in the slot, is pivotally engagable with the slot side walls and is pivotal with respect to the side walls. In contrast, as acknowledged by the Examiner, and as is clear from Figs. 5 - 8 of Neely, the latch device of Neely must be removed from the slot, even if it included tabs such as in van Buren. This is because in Neely the latch is received by and engages a wall (120 88) which extends parallel to the latch (110 80) for a substantial portion of the length thereof. This why the Neely design

includes a living hinge 108. No such living hinge is required with applicant's design. Thus, neither reference, alone or together, shows the subject matter recited in amended claims 1 and 10, and amended claims should be allowed.

Claims 2 - 9 should be allowed because they now depend directly or indirectly from allowable amended claim 1.

Claims 11 - 18 should be allowed because they now depend directly or indirectly from allowable amended claim 10.

New claim 19 has been added. New claim 19 recites that the first part includes an opening which is covered by the second part, and that the first part forms a plate which surrounds and extends away from the opening. New claim 19 also recites that the slot is formed in the plate spaced apart from and adjacent to the opening, that one of the side walls forms an inner edge of a portion of the plate, and that a portion of the plate adjacent to said one side wall extends only outwardly away from the slot and extends generally perpendicularly to a surface of said one side wall. This is all supported by the original figures.

In Neely there is no plate which extends away from an opening. In contrast, in Neely, walls 14 and 120 and 88 all extend substantially parallel to a central axis of the opening at the top of modules 14, 16. Also, in Neely there are no slot side walls which form an inner edge of a portion of a plate as recited in new claim 19. In contrast, the side walls of the slot in Neely are formed by extended surfaces of members 120, 88, not by an edge thereof. Thus, the slot structure shown in Neely differs substantially from the structure recited in new claim 19, and new claim 19 should be allowed.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

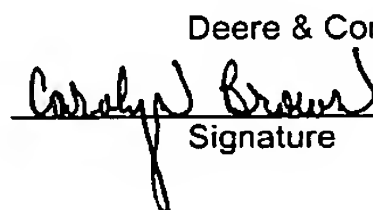
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Respectfully,


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